

Grace Church Visitor

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to the Interest of Grace Reformed Church

FORT WAYNE INDIANA

VOL. XX

MAY 1910

No. 7

Grace Reformed Church

East Washington St., between Barr and Lafayette

REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, Pastor
Residence, 320 E. Washington St.

SABBATH SERVICES

Sabbath School.....	9:30 A. M.
Church Services.....	10:30 A. M. and 7:30 P. M.
Y. P. S. C. E.	6:45 P. M.
Junior Y. P. S. C. E.	2:00 P. M.
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday	7:30 P. M.

ORGANIZATION AND HISTORIC SKETCH OF GRACE RE- FORMED CHURCH.

On Pentecost Day, May 10th, 1910. Grace Church celebrated the twenty-seventh anniversary of its organization and also the twenty-second anniversary of the present pastorate. The anniversary sermon was preached at the morning service by the pastor, on the text 1 Tim. 3:15. The church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. After a brief exposition of the text, the pastor gave some historic reminiscences of the church, with the promise that in the present month's issue of the parish paper there would be a fuller account of the organization of the church and of its early history.

We feel confident that the following abstracts from the records of the church will be of special interest to the members of Grace Church.

Grace Reformed Church, Fort Wayne, Ind. Prefatory remarks to the organization of Grace Church.

On the ninth day of January, A. D., 1883, the Board of Home Missions of the Ohio Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States, issued and executed to the Rev. T. J. Bacher a call as missionary to the city of Fort Wayne, Ind., in the interest of the English speaking people of our Beloved Zion.

After due deliberation on the part of the pastor called, he accepted said call in humility of spirit, his labors to begin on the first day of April, A. D., 1883. Accordingly he moved into our midst the first week in April of said year, and on the 8th day of April in the Universalist Church on Harrison street (known as the Little Synagogue) preached his introductory sermon from Acts 10th Chapter and 29th verse, "I ask therefore, for what intent ye have sent for me."

About ninety souls were present at this inaugural service. Arrangements were immediately made on the part of J. W. Vordermark, H. P. Vordermark and Frank Paulus for permanent services in the Universalist edifice, where regular services are being held with a good attendance. Aided by the very kind services of the brethren and sisters of the Reformed faith, the pastor visited many families in the interest of the new organization.

Accordingly, a day of organization was appointed, viz: May 13th, A. D., 1883 (Pentecost) at 2 o'clock p. m. One hundred persons were present at this meeting.

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The services were introduced by invocation and singing "Jesus Lover of My Soul." The lesson read was the 2nd Chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. After prayer the pastor entered upon his task which was on the following topics. First the name, and origin of the Reformed Church in the United States. 2nd, History of and popular exposition of the Apostles' Creed. 3rd, General explanation of the Sacraments a Baptism, and the Lord's Supper.

Following the remarks the congregation sang from the Reformed Hymnal, "Nearer My God To Thee."

FORMAL ORGANIZATION.

After the above instructive service, the pastor stated his intention of organizing formally, an English Reformed Church in Fort Wayne, by authority of the Board of Missions of Ohio Synod. Rev. T. J. Bacher was elected president of the meeting, and D. W. Souder, secretary.

Letters were then presented as follows: Two from the Third Presbyterian Church of this city, two from the Wayne Street M. E. Church, four from the Salem Reformed Church, and eight from the St. John's Reformed Church, twenty-three were then admitted by renewal of profession, and nine were confirmed by baptism, two by the laying on of hands. After the Apostolic benediction upon all who had thus been received upon the declaration of their faith, the pastor declared fifty persons as members of the new congregation.

The congregation sang from the hymn "Nearer My God To Thee," and prayer was offered by the pastor.

The constitution suggested by the Synod of Ohio for the government of congregations, was then submitted and with a few additions was adopted as a whole. Here followed the signing of the constitution by the members. A motion prevailed fixing Sunday afternoon, May 20, 1883, at 3 o'clock, as the

time for the election of elders, deacons, trustees and treasurer. By motion the following committee was appointed to nominate officers for Grace Reformed church, to-wit: Rev. T. J. Bacher, S. C. Metcalf, M. D., Philip Hyman and W. D. Souder.

On motion the meeting adjourned to meet May 20th, A. D., 1883 at 3 p. m., to complete the organization by the election of officers provided for in the constitution of the Reformed Church in the United States. These interesting exercises were concluded by singing "Blest Be the Tie That Binds," and the Apostolic benediction by the pastor.

Respectfully and in the joy of Zion,
D. W. SOUDER, Secretary.

May 20, 1883, the following officers were elected: Elders F. D. Paulus and W. H. Haberker, Deacons, H. P. Vordermark, J. H. Rehling; treasurer, D. W. Souder; trustees, J. W. Cordermark, M. Connell, Jacob Certia. June 10, 1883, a congregational meeting was held for the purpose of considering the advisability of procuring a suitable building lot or lots upon which to erect a house of worship. It was decided at this meeting to purchase the lots on East Washington street, between Barr and Lafayette streets, where the church is now located. The property was known as the old Barber home and consisted of three lots and five feet of a vacated alley in all of 95 feet front. The purchase price was \$4,000. Sixty feet were retained for the church. 35 feet were sold to the pastor, Rev. T. J. Bacher for \$1,500, at the end of his pastorate April 1st, 1888, the congregation again purchased the 35 feet for parsonage purposes for \$1,800. At this meeting June 10, 1883, seven hundred dollars were pledged toward the purchase of the lots and a committee was appointed to continue the canvass and the trustees were instructed to buy the property. For a little more than a year the congregation

worshiped in the little synagogue and in a hall on Berry street. The following spring the lecture rooms of the church were built at a cost of about \$4,000 and were dedicated July 27th, A. D., 1884.

Rev. T. J. Bacher resigned the pastorate of Grace Church in March, 1888, the pastorate terminating April 1st. The present pastorate began with June 1st of the same year. During the summer of 1889, the parsonage was erected on the lot adjoining the church property at a cost of \$2,200. The erection of the church auditorium was begun in April, 1894, and was dedicated in April, 1895. The cost of the building with equipment was \$15,000. The church property has been advancing rapidly in valuation during the past years. Thirty thousand dollars would be a conservative estimate for the property at present. The membership of the church is not far from 400. A sufficient amount is pledged to pay off the whole indebtedness on the church building, and a good start is made on the organ fund. With the present membership and prospects of the church we should do great things for the Lord. The Woman's Aid Society with its unceasing activity and enterprise has been a great help to the church financially, spiritually and socially. The Sunday School has been the Bible Training School and recruiting station for the church. It is at present in a prosperous state, and in the midst of an active campaign for an increased membership in the school. The Woman's Missionary Society and the Young Peoples' Society are also doing a splendid work. There are great opportunities before the church at present, let us enter in and possess the land.

MARRIAGES.

Mr. Harry L. Stewart and Miss Wilhiamine Saffen were married at their own home, a pretty new residence at 1011 Delaware avenue, on Saturday af-

ternoon, May 14th. The attendants were Miss Gertrude Freidline and Mr. Clinton Scherer, special friends of the bride and groom. The only other guest present was Miss Alice Saffen, a sister of the bride. Mr. Stewart is a very promising young man and is an architect in the office of H. C. Weatherhogg. The bride is well known in Grace Church, of which she is a member, and has also been a member of the choir for a number of years. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Saffen.

The Woman's Aid Society of the St. John's Reformed Church celebrated its Golden Jubilee Wednesday afternoon May 25th. The Aid Societies of the Reformed churches at Decatur and Hunt architect in the office of H. C. eWeatherington and of the Salem Reformed Church of this city and of Grace Church were invited to the celebration. It was a pleasant gathering and the exercises were very interesting. At the close of the services supper was served to about two hundred guests.

The campaign to increase the attendance and enrollment in the Sunday School is becoming strenuous and interesting. About twenty-five new scholars have been enrolled within the past several weeks. The interest seems to center chiefly in the primary department. The rooms are becoming so crowded that standing room will soon be at a premium. The Adult Bible Class and the Young Ladies' and Young Men's classes are also having a number of accessions.

The slogan of the campaign is, "Every One Bring One." Quite a number are already wearing the button "Brought One."

Mrs. Jacob Rudisill will entertain the Woman's Missionary Society at her home north of the city, Thursday afternoon, June 16th.

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REV. A. ZARTMAN, Editor and Publisher

Subscription Price, 25 cents per year

Children's day, June 12th. We want everybody out to this service on that Sunday.

The Woman's Aid Society will meet in the lecture rooms of the church Thursday afternoon, June 2. From 5 to 8 in the evening the women of Section No. 5 will serve the monthly supper.

Stereopticon sermons Sabbath evenings, June 5th and 19th. We are having a large attendance and everyone seems to be greatly interested in this method of the study of the life of Christ. The members who are not at these services are missing a great opportunity.

Mrs. R. F. Dinger and little daughter have been very ill, but are now convalescing.

The series of stereopticon sermons on the Life of Christ have created considerable interest. So far the attendance has been very good. A great many strangers have been out each Sunday evening and have been very much interested in the services. There will be two more sermons in this series; Sammath evening, June 5th and 19th. Every member of the church should be at these services. Tissot's Bible pictures have no equal.

The anniversary services May 15 were well attended both morning and evening. The 5 charter members who are still in connection with the church were present at the morning service. Mrs. Kate Certia, Mrs. W. H. Habecker, Mrs. Philip Heyman, Mrs. A. C. Katt and Mrs. Mary Richards. There were three accessions to the church on anniversary day, Harry and Wilbert Ribel and Richard Weller. We are glad to welcome these new members into the church

and trust they will find a pleasant church home with us. At the evening service the choir repeated the Easter cantata "Light Out of Darkness," by Giebel. The people were delighted to hear it again.

The women of Section No. 5 will serve the monthly supper Thursday evening, June 2nd. The following are the names of that section: Managers, Mrs. C. F. Close, Miss Anna Doermer; assistants, Mesdames Daniel Null, E. C. Close, H. E. Metzner, W. F. Close, James Evard, Perry Archer, Jacob Hetriek, Kate Certia, Fred Shearer, Alma Niedhammer, Clinton Schultz, Misses Ida and Lillie Kirkham, Bertha and Martha Carrol, Sybil Niedhammer, Mrs. Snyder.

The following persons were received into the church at the service on Easter morning by confirmation.

Ralph W. Siebold, 1233 Barthold; Arthur A. Fritz, 1417 Sherman; Elmer E. Weickard, 1216 Clark; George S. Weickard, 1216 Clark; Robert Betner, 519 E. Lewis; Esther L. Fritz, 1417 Sherman; Maud M. Frederick, 1207 Orchard.

By baptism and confirmation: Mrs. Nancy May Hill, 1412 Clinton; Ida Elten Hill, 1412 Clinton.

By letter and renewal: Mrs. Dora Shuler, 1400 Spy Run Ave.; Mrs. Della Wait, 206 First; Mrs. George Geinner, 1529 E. Wayne; Mrs. R. M. Snyder, 1223 Michigan Ave.; Esta Snyder, 1223 Michigan Ave.; Maud Snyder, 1223 Michigan Ave.; Eddie Snyder, 1223 Michigan Ave.; Mr. and Mrs. Otto Snyder, W. Jefferson; Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Klipinger, 1433 Spy Run Ave., and Mrs. Martha Frederick, 1207 Orchard.

Mrs. Daisy Krohnmler is at the Lutheran hospital, where she had another operation. She is getting along all right.

Mary Elizabeth Metcalf died on Saturday afternoon, April 9, at her home in Perry township, Allen county, after an illness extending over a period of several years. She was born in Ashland county, Ohio, September 7, 1845, and was aged at her death, 64 years, 7 months and 2 days. At the age of four years she came with her parents John and Elizabeth Duly, to Perry township, Allen county, Indiana, where she resided until her death. On January 26, 1870, she was married to Martin V. Metcalf. Mrs. Metcalf was a woman who was held in the highest esteem by her neighbors and friends. Those who knew her, always found her to be a steadfast friend, a devoted wife, and a kind and loving mother. At the death of Dr. and Mrs. Metcalf of this city, some years ago, they left two orphan children, a son and daughter. Mrs. Metcalf took these children to her home and adopted them as her own, and cared for them as a mother. In her early life she was identified with the United Brethren Church. A long time before her death she made all the arrangements for her funeral, selecting her pall bearers and the text for funeral services—(Matt. 25:21), and also requested that the pastor of Grace church should officiate at this final service. She told the family of having met the pastor and of words he had spoken to her that had been a comfort to her, and always lingered with her. We cannot recall the time where we met this sister, nor the word that was spoken to her, but if we have been of any help and comfort to her in her life, we are devoutly thankful for it. We were glad that we were able to comply with her wish and officiate at the funeral service which was held from the church near Huntertown. It was one of the largest funerals we have attended for many years. The husband, one son, four brothers, and a host of other relatives and friends survive this sister.

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C. E. TOPICS AND LEADERS.

June 5—"Christ Our Judge," Matt. 25:31-46, Mrs. Chirrell Schuyler.

June 12—"God Knows," Ps. 103:1-4; Matt. 6:7, 8, Hazel Gooley.

June 19—"Christ's Yoke," Matt. 11:25-30, Robert Schmidt.

June 26—"Mission Study on China," Mrs. A. K. Zartman.

July 3—"Christian Citizenship," Ps. 124:1-8; Rev. 21:1-3, Mr. L. W. Hills.

The young people will give an ice cream social and entertainment, entitled "The Last Day of School—Sleepy Hollow Deestrict" in the lecture rooms of the church on Thursday evening, June 9th. The admission will be 10¢ and the proceeds of the social will be used for the purchase of new hymnals for the church. Every member of the church and Sunday School should be interested in this and make an effort to come, as you will certainly enjoy it. The following characters will take part in the entertainment:

Maudie Oateake.....	Georgia Smith
Sadie Sparrowgrass.....	Alice Saffen
Needie Biskit.....	Mrs. H. E. Metzner
Jennie Holdfast.....	Elsie Weikart
Katie Didd.....	Mrs. H. Schuyler
Tillie Phone.....	Evelyn Wertman
Johnnie J. Upp.....	Wm. Hobson
Weerie Willie.....	Irving Bitner
Jakie Strauss.....	Ernest Close
Cornelius Doylan.....	Wm. Walters
G. Rusalem.....	W. F. Close
Harry Plane.....	A. Jones
School Marm.....	Mrs. D. F. Knott
Music Master.....	Ed C. Close

Mrs. A. C. Katt and sons have returned from Covington, Ky., where they spent the winter and are living.

Mr. Gavin was recently called to Williams county, Ohio, to see a brother who has been very ill for some months.

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